

REMARKS

Claims 12, 17, 18, and 26 have been amended, claims 13, 14, 16, 28, and 29 have been canceled, and claims 31-35 have been added. As such, claims 6-12, 15, 17-27, and 30-35 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 6-11 and 19-25 and eagerly awaits formal allowance of the remaining claims.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 14, 16-18, 27, 29, and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter recited in these claims. To expedite prosecution, claims 16 and 29 have been canceled and their limitations have been incorporated into claims 12 and 26, respectively. Accordingly, claims 12 and 26, as well as claims dependent therefrom, are now in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 12, 13, 15, 26, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,412,246 to Dobuzinsky et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,451,660 to Ma et al. Claims 13 and 28 have been canceled rendering rejection thereto moot. As noted above, claims 12 and 26 have been amended to include the allowed limitations of canceled claims 16 and 29, rendering claims 12 and 26, as well as claims dependent therefrom, in condition for allowance. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Patentability of Added Claims

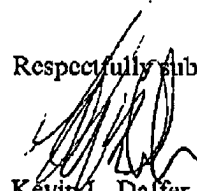
The present amendment adds claims 31-35 which are dependent upon claims 12 or 26. Accordingly, claims 31-35 are patentably distinct over the cited art for at least the same reasons their respective base claim. Accordingly, approval of added claims 31-35 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action mailed June 29, 2004. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 6-12, 15, 17-27, and 30-35 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-3268/5298-08000.

Respectfully submitted,



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